



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, November 6, 2014
6:30 PM**

Members Present: Russ Dixon, Marty Logue, Gretchen Maricak, Shawn O'Rourke, George Stern

Members Absent: Jeff Wilmot

Student Members: Olivia Nielsen, Jake Rotger (Mr. Rotger left at 7:00 p.m.)

Administration: Museum Director Pielack
Museum Assistant Jennifer O'Hare
Museum Program Assistant Daniel Patton

Guests: None

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of October 15, 2014**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by O'Rourke:
To approve the minutes of October 15, 2014

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, none

Unfinished Business

- A. There were no committee reports from the Collections Committee or the Board Development Committee at this time.
- B. Museum Director Pielack reviewed the successful CREEM event that took place on November 1, 2014. The remainder of the Director Report was deferred to the end of the meeting as the interpretive planning presentation to be held at the Hunter House.
- C. Mr. Dixon attended a recent Principal Shopping District board meeting to discuss the Museum Board vacancy and invite PSD board members or their associates to consider serving on the Museum Board. Mr. Stern will be having lunch with the school superintendent, Daniel Nerad, and will ask him if he is interested.
- D. The Joint Fundraising Committee has been working on the bell project campaign, and a staff person from the schools is coming to photograph students with the bell for a school newsletter. Ms. Logue offered to meet with her at the museum

and provide information as well as learn more about how the schools plan to approach the project.

- E. Mr. Dixon introduced language for two separate motions; one regarding the erection of a CREEM plaque near the location of their former offices in downtown Birmingham, and another regarding Booth Park's DUR Connection, as follows:

MOTION: by Stern, seconded by Logue:

To direct the chairperson to request the City Commission's cooperation and permission to erect a historical plaque commemorating Creem Magazine's tenure in Birmingham. The plaque to be located adjacent to their former offices and identical to those erected in 2003 to the extent possible. Internationally distributed Creem Magazine was the world's second most important Rock publication and was headquartered in Birmingham from 1973 to 1987.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, none

Director Pielack pointed out that the next step before anything would go on the commission meeting agenda would be to review with the city manager, who prepares the agenda for the commission.

MOTION: by Maricak, seconded by O'Rourke:

To direct the chairperson to apprise the Parks and Recreation Board that the unavailability of a DUR trolley car with a connection to Birmingham make the previously suggested installation at Booth Park unworkable at this time. However the Museum Board would encourage the Parks and Recreation Board, to the extent practical and within their goals, consider the historic heritage of Booth Park as a component of the Detroit interurban system in future improvements to the park.

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, none

New Business

- A. Director Pielack reviewed a summary of the planned 2015-16 museum budget to help board members understand the expected direction of the budget for the next fiscal year. The expected budget, less capital expenditures which are handled separately, is projected to include an increase in the personnel, operations, and collections, but it still is expected to be less than 2013-2014's budget. Director Pielack explained that capital expenditures to either repair/repaint the existing siding or to replace with a composite substitute material are being explored, subject to cost and approval by the Design Review Committee, Museum Board, and city manager recommendations to the commission throughout the coming budget preparation cycle.

Miscellaneous Business and Communication

Ms. Maricak questioned the status of the work formerly done by the Historic District Study Committee, and what will happen to those efforts now. She pointed out that in essence, they were a research committee, and that would be desirable to continue to conduct that type of activity through the Museum Board.

Matters Not on the Agenda

None.

At 7:00 p.m., the meeting continued at the Hunter House for the museum staff presentation about interpretive planning. The staff introduced the basic issues in developing a museum interpretive plan that integrates numerous levels of content and appeals to multiple audiences. Museum standards and changing technology were also discussed. They further provided examples of interpretive planning issues that museums try to solve in various ways, in the context of the Hunter House and new information surfacing about some of the objects and history of the Hunter family.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.